

Mrs. Salazar is suffering from very delicate health. She was taken early this morning from her home in Alamosa, CO, to Denver for hospitalization.

The entire Salazar family is together in Denver as we speak comforting her and each other during this very difficult time.

I want them to know that the thoughts of everyone in this Chamber are with them.

Those of us who have come to know KEN SALAZAR know what a gentleman he is and how family oriented he is.

I spoke to him last night as he was getting ready to leave, and he is very concerned about his mom.

We wish KEN and his family the very best. I hope all Members of the Senate family would keep this good man and his family in their prayers.

TRIBUTE TO ELLEN KNOWLTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a woman who has worked hard to ensure the safety of southern Nevadans, and indeed all Americans, for more than 24 years. Mrs. Ellen Knowlton recently retired from her position as Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Las Vegas field office. As Special Agent Knowlton brings an end to her long and distinguished career, I join her family and friends in offering our gratitude for her honorable and dedicated service in our community.

Ellen joined the FBI in 1982, and went on to serve in Bureau offices in California, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Washington, DC. In Washington, she was deputy assistant director of the Bureau's National Security Division Counterintelligence Operations. While in this capacity, Ellen supervised the September 11 terrorist hijacking investigation, for which our Nation is indebted.

In March 2002, Ellen became Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Las Vegas operations, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience from which Nevada continues to benefit. She refers to this appointment as the "pin-nacle" of her career. However, I feel it is Nevadans who are truly fortunate for that appointment. Her work in Las Vegas has left a lasting impact on the State and our communities, particularly the relationships Ellen forged with local law enforcement. Her work has set a gold standard of cooperation and goodwill.

Special Agent Knowlton's colleagues within the law enforcement community often express their admiration for her. This speaks not only to her merits as a professional but to her character as an individual as well. Ellen has chosen a life of service and deserves all the praise and accolades she receives.

I am grateful for Ellen's untiring efforts on behalf of our country and leadership in our community. I wish her and her family the best as they embark on this new phase of their lives.

PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the efforts of the Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee to ensure that the Senate and the public are educated on the important issues surrounding pandemic flu preparedness. The input of this panel in November was important to this committee as we worked to provide pandemic flu funding in the December Defense Appropriations bill.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has taken a significant first step in addressing this issue. We will continue to work with the Secretary of HHS and the White House to provide the funding necessary to prepare our country for an influenza pandemic. We realize these efforts require Federal and local governments, as well as private industry, working together. I am pleased that these interests are all represented here today.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On June 8, 2005, in Brooklyn, NY, Dwan Prince a gay man, was savagely beaten by three men who screamed anti-gay slurs during the assault. The attack took place outside Prince's apartment building in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Prince was immediately rushed to the hospital after the attack where he remained for close to a week.

I believe that the government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, in this era defined by rapid globalization and the fight against terrorism, an increased focus on international studies and foreign language instruction in our schools is critical to maintaining our country's global leadership position. In order to foster the continued expansion of economic development and democratic institutions across the globe, we need citizens and workers who are knowledgeable of other cultures and languages.

This need has become painfully evident in recent years as our Armed Forces, intelligence agencies, and diplomatic services have struggled to find personnel fluent in languages such as Arabic and Farsi and knowledgeable of the traditions and customs of the Middle East. At the same time, growing economic opportunities in Asia have put a premium on knowledge of languages such as Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, and Korean.

Fortunately, we are seeing welcomed movement in confronting this challenge. Recently, President Bush launched the National Security Language Initiative to increase the number of Americans learning critical foreign languages. And today, the Committee for Economic Development, CED, a nonpartisan organization of business leaders and university presidents, has released a new policy statement, Education for Global Leadership: The Importance of International Studies and Foreign Language Education for U.S. Economic and National Security. This report provides recommendations for the public and private sectors for strengthening and expanding international studies and foreign language instruction across all levels of learning.

I welcome these developments and encourage my colleagues to review the CED's recommendations and join in this critical effort to enhance our economic and national security.

PATRIOT ACT DEAL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I understand that some of my friends and colleagues in this body have come to an agreement with the White House on reauthorizing the PATRIOT Act.

While I respect these Senators greatly, I am gravely disappointed in this so-called deal. The White House agreed to only a few minor changes to the PATRIOT Act conference report that could not get through the Senate back in December. These changes do not address the major problems with the PATRIOT Act that a bipartisan coalition has been trying to fix for the past several years. We have come too far and fought too hard to agree to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act without fixing those problems. A few insignificant changes just doesn't cut it. I cannot support this deal, and I will do everything I can to stop it.

I understand the pressure that my colleagues have been under on this issue, and I appreciate all the hard work that they have done on the PATRIOT Act. It has been very gratifying to work on a bipartisan basis on this issue. It is unfortunate that the White House is so obviously trying to make this into a partisan issue, because it sees some political advantage to doing so. Whether the White House likes it or not, this will continue to be an issue where both Democrats and Republicans have concerns, and we will continue to work together for changes to the law. I am sure of that.